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SHATTERED BARK

SAFELY HARBOURED;

OR,

A Brief Account of GOD's Faithfulness to his AFFLICTED PEOPLE:

Exemplified in the Experience of

ANN JENKINSON,

Late of Tottenham Court Road;

During the long Period of near TWENTY YEARS Confinement, by a Complication of PAINFUL DISORDERS, till her TRANSLATION in *August*, 1791.

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TO record the triumphs of a Covenant-God to his people, in supporting them in seasons of trial and affliction, is to render him the tribute due to his holy name; which it tends to shew forth his praise, may, through Divine blessing, be conducive to excite believers to trust in him "at all times," and to commit themselves, with unsuspecting confidence, to his gracious care and protection, even in the absence of all earthly comforts.

The subject of these papers was a re-

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TO record the faithfulneſs of a Covenant-God to his people, in ſupporting them in ſeaſons of trial and affliction, is to render him the tribute due to his holy name; which, while it tends to ſhew forth his praiſe, may, through Divine bleſſing, be conducive to excite believers to truſt in him "at all times," and to commit themſelves, with unſuſpecting confidence, to his gracious care and protection, even in the abſence of all earthly comforts.

The ſubject of theſe papers was a remarkable witneſs to the above truth, whilſt

exercised in the school of suffering affliction, during a long period of near TWENTY YEARS! Having been, for some time previous to her sufferings, called from "darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God," and enabled, through sovereign grace, to believe on the Lord Jesus unto the saving of her soul; she was thereby brought to enjoy the peace of God in her conscience, which laid a foundation for submission and resignation under all future trials and sufferings, and which, as to their nature and duration, were somewhat uncommon.

JEHOVAH has, doubtless, an uncontroulable right to bring his people in whatever way he pleases, to his kingdom and glory; nor durst any one, without presumption, ask him, "what dost thou?" The path, therefore, of this departed saint was singularly afflictive, and served to manifest his Almighty skill, in over-ruling that which is painful to the flesh, to be profitable to the spirit;—to shew that "the LORD is upright, and that there is no unrighteousness in him."

Some time after she was brought to the knowledge of the truth, she was visited with

with a ſore affliction, viz. a cancer in one of her breaſts; which defied the power of all remedies, and continued to ſpread its baneful influence, until it laid her under the neceſſity of ſubmitting to the painful operation of having her breaſt removed at a public hoſpital; under which trial, ſhe was ſingularly ſupported, to the praiſe of his name, who has graciouſly promiſed to be with his people in trouble, and, never to leave them or forſake them in it. Fear not, dear Chriſtian, to go into any furnace, whilſt the Great Refiner has promiſed to ſtand by; he will take care that nothing ſhall be loſt, but thy "droſs and tin." He does not afflict thee in wrath, but in "very faithfulneſs," that thy faith may be exerciſed upon his unerring word, and by the exerciſe, grow ſtronger and ſtronger. And, although "no chaſtiſement for the preſent ſeemeth to be joyous, but grievous," yet, by cleaving to Jesus in his word, through the ſanctifying grace of his SPIRIT, *afterwards*, it ſhall yield the "peaceful fruits of righteouſneſs unto them which are exerciſed thereby." And many a believer can teſtify, with one of old, notwithſtanding the painful mortifications the fleſh undergoes in trying circumſtances, yet, from the

ſenſible experience of ſpiritual benefits received, "it was good for me that I have been afflicted." But to return.

In a courſe of time, after the laſt-mentioned trial of this departed believer, ſhe was viſited with another diſeaſe, which totally deprived her of the uſe of her feet; whereby ſhe was neceſſarily a priſoner of God's Providence, for upwards of *nineteen years*; during which long period, ſhe was likewiſe afflicted with various other acute diſorders; which, like ſo many waves and billows, rolled over her head—ſhattered her feeble frame, and gradually waſted her ſtrength; inſomuch, that hardly a ſingle day paſſed, wherein ſhe was not conflicting with ſome grievous malady, and "weariſome nights were appointed unto her." Diſeaſe raged to ſuch painful extremes, at certain ſeaſons, that nothing ſhort of the ſupporting hand of God, together with the uſe of opiates as outward means, could render temporal life even tolerable.

Under all this complicated miſery, the Lord appeared wonderfully in her behalf. As her tribulation abounded, her "conſolation alſo abounded, through Chriſt;" inſomuch

ſomuch that ſhe was enabled, in the midſt of theſe ſcenes of adverſity, to juſtify God in all his ways; to view all as proceeding from *his* hand, who was the "Father of mercies, and the God of all conſolations," ſatisfied that he was doing all things well. Conſcious, through grace, of her intereſt in the ſalvation of JESUS, ſhe could ſay, that "all his paths were mercy and truth:" and, enabled to rely upon GOD's promiſes, which are all "yea and amen in Chriſt Jeſus," ſhe found that ſtrength was given her equal to her day; and, multiplied as her ſufferings were, yet ſhe was made "more than a conqueror" over all, through HIM who had loved her. And ſuch enjoyments were vouchſafed unto her of his grace, mercy, and peace, that ſhe would not have exchanged her condition, painful and afflictive as it was to fleſh and blood, for one ſurrounded with the greateſt eaſe and proſperity, deſtitute of the peace of God that paſſeth all underſtanding, which ſhe richly enjoyed by faith in Chriſt Jeſus.

Thus was ſhe preſerved from day to day, as a ſpark in the midſt of the ocean; —a witneſs for God, and a monument of his mercy and faithfulneſs. The cordials

of

of his everlasting Gospel kept her from fainting in the day of adversity; so that in passing through these deep waters of affliction, they did not overflow her, and in walking through the fire of tribulation, she was not burnt; "for the Lord was her God, and the Holy One of Israel her Saviour." Nor did she experience him the God of Grace *only*, but also of Providence. She was necessarily cut off from all means of subsistence, as well as the means of grace; but HE, who has the hearts of all men in his hand, mercifully interposed in her behalf, by raising up friends from various quarters, whom he disposed to consider her affliction, and administer to her necessities, in both respects *. She was supplied with the bread that perisheth, according as her necessities required, during the whole of her confinement; as another blessed instance of the fulfilment of God's word, that the believer, casting *all* his care upon *him*, shall "want no manner of thing that is good;" and likewise, through the instru-

* Amongst other friends who contributed to her temporal supplies, the AMICABLE SOCIETY considered her as a meet object of their attention for upwards of *six years*.

mentality

mentality of her viſitors, and God's bleſſing upon the means, ſhe was often refreſhed in her ſpirit, and nouriſhed with the bread that endureth unto life eternal.

Nor was this all. As a temporary alleviation of acute pains, muſt have been very acceptable to one in her ſuffering ſtate, benefactors in the *medical* profeſſion, likewiſe, well acquainted with her ſituation, were diſpoſed occaſionally to attend her, and always ready to afford every aſſiſtance that might tend to blunt the ſeverity of thoſe diſeaſes, which in their nature admitted of no radical cure.—Thus her paſſage was rendered as tolerable, as the nature of her ſingularly trying circumſtances would allow of; and ſhe was kept "waiting all her appointed time, until her change came. Oftentimes, indeed, long before her diſmiſſion, her "ſhattered bark" appeared to be arrived near the wiſhed-for port, but an unexpected gale of wind aroſe, and drove the veſſel back again to ſea. There is an "appointed time for man upon earth"—and that time is in the Lord's hand. Therefore, O believer, thy afflictions are exactly proportioned in number, weight, and meaſure—the time of their duration

exactly

exactly fixed—they ſhall not continue a moment longer, nor oppreſs thee a grain heavier, than infinite wiſdom has ordained to ſubſerve his glory, and thy preſent and eternal good.

The period of her ſufferings at length drew to a cloſe, and the weather-beaten traveller, after a long and weariſome journey, arrived near the welcome reſt. She was conſcious of her approaching diſſolution, and fully confident that her *guide* and protector would neither leave nor forſake her in her laſt moments. In the full aſſurance of faith, ſhe committed herſelf into *his* hands, and expreſſed to thoſe around her, that "her Jeſus was conveying her home." She gradually decreaſed in bodily ſtrength, and her mental faculties began to impair. But, as long as her language was intelligible, it was the language of *faith*; expreſſive of her *firm* affiance in Jesus, "who having loved her as his own, would love her unto the end." At length her ſpeech failed her; the earthly houſe of her tabernacle diſſolved, and ſhe gradually ſunk in the arms of death, where "the wicked ceaſe from troubling, and the weary ſouls of believers are eternally at reſt!"

And

And now, dear reader, thou haſt heard of the life and death of a believer in Jeſus, what are *thy* ſentiments on the little narrative? Doſt thou not ſee that the ſtate of God's people is a bleſſed one, even in *this* life, although ſurrounded with ſcenes of trials and afflictions, to ſay nothing of their *future* bliſs and happineſs? And art thou, through grace, one of the number? Haſt thou ever been convinced of ſin, and fled to JESUS for refuge? If not, whatever thy condition in *this life* may be, (as to outward things) nothing elſe can do thee good in thy latter end.—The whole creation cannot afford thee one moment's true happineſs (if awake to thy danger) whilſt thou art a ſtranger to HIS great ſalvation. May the Lord convince thee e'er it is too late! But,—if on the other hand, thou art a partaker of his grace, and living upon his fullneſs, thou mayeſt ſafely commit thy *all* into his Almighty care, for time and eternity. If trials mark thy path through life, let the inſtance before thee, ſerve to teſtify what he can do for his people, even in the worſt of times. Or, if proſperity be thy lot, his grace is ſufficient to keep thee humble. In all ſituations he is an *all-ſufficient* portion,

tion, and a *ſatisfying* good. May he enable thee to truſt in him "at all times" —to love him above all things, and to experience him thy guide through life—thy ſafeguard in death, and thy "EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD" to all Eternity!

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